THE LIONS' PRIDE

THE LIONS' PRIDE
MEDIA GROUP

Wondering whats your next step? Tired of navigating the same old websites? Try Handshake, a program that will get you in touch with recruiters through Saint Leo. Check this article out inside.

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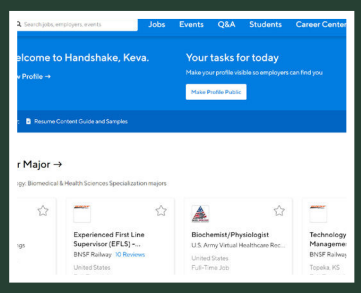

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SCAN FOR OUR WEBSITE

The New Look of The Lions' Pride

As of Aug. 24, 2018, The Lions' Pride Newspaper has been changed to The Lions' Pride Media Group. The name change reflects the change in operation of the organization and sought to encompass all of the platforms which it represents. The look of the paper has also changed read more inside.

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Commencement Speaker

Read what the Commencement Speaker and Vice President of Communications Management has to say about what motivated her throughout her tenure at Saint Leo.

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The Lions' Pride

About The Pride

During the 2018-2019 Academic year, *The Lions' Pride Newspaper* underwent a name change.

As of Aug. 24, 2018, *The Lions' Pride Newspaper* has been changed to The Lions' Pride Media Group.

The name change reflects the change in operation of the organization and sought to encompass all of the platforms which it represents.

Over the past three years, numerous platforms have been engaged to stay relevant within a growing global presence. Some of the new additions have included but are not limited to an Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat account, where subscribers can see behind the scenes work of *The Lions' Pride* staff.

Our readers are also updated daily on new articles set to be published in print and direct to online publications. The available content includes articles, time lapse and standard video clips.

The addition of the movie review channel on YouTube, Lions' Pride Watch, has allowed us to engage with students, members of faculty and staff on current and past cinematic releases.

The Lions' Pride remains committed to providing timely, accurate and relevant information within and around The Saint Leo community while providing an awareness of the world and the influences around us.

We promise to remain the student voice of the Saint Leo community while exemplifying the Benedictine Core Values.

We are not a group of students representing any one major at the University, but a subset of the wider community hailing from diverse backgrounds with an even wider range of talents.

In the upcoming issues, we offer the Saint Leo Community the opportunity to meet and dialog with our editors, staff and affiliates. Thank you for your continued support.

Update

The Lions' Pride has transitioned to a monthly publication starting this Spring. Through it we hope to provide even more timely news, keeping in deeper touch with the pulse of the student body of Saint Leo University.

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Letters To The Editor

- 500 word maximum
- No profane or slanderous language
- Students: Include name and year
- Faculty: Include name and rank
- Please include a phone number to verify authorship
- We reserve the right to edit for grammar/spelling/libel or publish.
- Send submissions to **thelionspridenewspaper@gmail.com**

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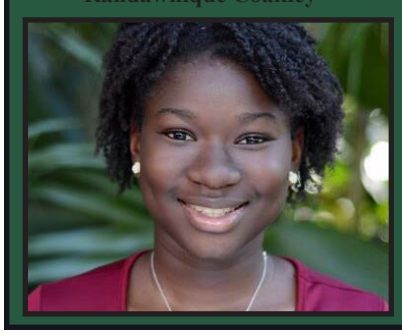
The Lions' Pride Congratulates its Graduating Editors

Randawnique Coakley



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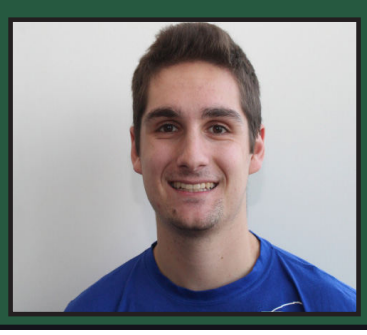

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Commencement Speaker Looks Forward to The Future

By Jade Bastian
Contributing Writer

Taking up the mantle of commencement speaker is no easy feat.However, Juliette Stratis, a senior majoring in communications management and the 2019 undergraduate commencement speaker, found the decision to be quite easy.

Influenced and inspired by her sorority sister and the 2018 commencement speaker Cassidy Whitaker, Stratis believes that this is an amazing opportunity to vie for.

"I hope that my speech is impactful, Cassidy Whitaker, last year's commencement speaker, is one of my best friends and sorority sisters and she really inspired and urged me to [contend] for this amazing opportunity," said Stratis.

Involvement plays a vital role in the integration of students into the Saint Leo community and plays a pivotal role in the college experience.

Stratis mentioned the highlights of her time at Saint Leo. One of her highlights was first joining her sorority, Alpha Sigma Tau. Through the sisterhood found within the organization, Stratis found more than friends but created a separate family within University Campus.

Stratis continued to recount her highlights saying, "It was [also] through the endless amounts of leadership opportunities offered such as SGU."

Stratis referred her position as Vice President of Communications Management on the SGU Executive Board. She recounted her most powerful experience at the University involved her role in SGU.

"The most influential experience I had at Saint Leo was holding the role of Vice President of Communication Management for Student Government Union Executive Board," said Stratis. "I learned so much about leadership, communication, and relationships, and found a new family on campus within SGU."

Stratis also said the best moments of her time spent at SLU involved the people at the University.

"These are the people who have been with me every moment of my journey, and these are the ones who make leaving Leo so hard," she said.

Just as many students are inspired by family, friends and the desire for more in their lives, Stratis is encouraged by a strong force, her mother.

"My mom has been my greatest motivator through everything. My mom has shown so much strength, and has raised me to be both confident and determined," said Stratis.

As many of the commencement speakers before her, Stratis' eyes are set on the impact her voice will have on graduation day. She also mentioned her expected impact of her speech.

"I want to connect through our experiences throughout our four years here, talk about our future and how excited I am to see where it takes all of us, and also to recognize how big of a day, today is and to celebrate that with all of them," said Stratis.

After graduation, Stratis hopes to stay within the Tampa area, grabbing a place of her own and working in the field of Communications, Public Relations and/or Media Relations.

Photo Provided by SGU

Stratis found a family with her involvement in the Executive Board of the Student Government Union.

Photo by The Lions' Pride

Stratis is encouraged by a strong force, her mother. she mentioned that her mom has been her greatest motivator.

Photo Provided by Juliette Stratis Facebook

Within her role as V.P. of Communications Management Stratis had many memorable experiences.

What I Wish I Knew When I Graduated

Nicole Alvarez
Special To the Lions' Pride

During the final months of my last semester, I thought I had everything planned out. I knew what I was going to get a career in. I knew the companies hiring for my dream jobs. But most importantly, I whole-heartily believed that the job market wouldn't be too bad.

How I wish I could go back to 2017 and smack some sense into myself. Unfortunately, I don't have a time machine, but I do have a friend who can tell me all the problems with time travel.

Which brings me to my first point. Be prepared to say goodbye to most of the friends you made while in college.

At the very least, know that hanging out and face-to-face interaction will become severely limited, especially if you and your friends live in different states entirely.

I have friends that live only 30 minutes away from me and I barely ever see them. Except, that's mostly because we're all working terrible part-time hours or exhausting full-time jobs.

Speaking of jobs and segueing into talking about the job market, have prospective interviews lined up before you graduate.

I made the silly mistake of not job hunting as extensively as I should have. I also made the mistake of deciding on a career with little to no job opportunities in the area where I live.

Now, I'm working as a freelance content writer, which basically translates as writing articles from the comfort of my home. Sounds nice, right? No.

Unless you're an expert in your field, freelance opportunities won't pay a lot, and you'll be living from project to project. Entry-level freelance jobs aren't always work-at-home types either. I just got lucky after, oh, six months of looking for anything and everything related to writing or editing while working a data-entry job.

You'll probably have to go through several interviews before you find the job that you're willing to do for the salary you can work with.

Of course, the reason why I'm working freelance from home is because of an unexpected family obligation.

I love my family, but when I had finally worked up the nerve to consider moving for better job opportunities, I was called upon to stay to help take care of a family member in need of major surgery and therapy.

In other words, moving was no longer an option for me.

The moral of this particular story is – don't waste time on hemming and hawing your way through life. If you know something needs to be done, then do it. And if it involves moving across the country, then start packing. Doors will close if you take too long.

On the bright side, some doors don't stay closed forever.

Nicholas Santos
Special To the Lions' Pride

While I was a member of the graduating class of 2017 – all of whom graduated ceremonially in April of that year – I had finished my degree requirements one semester early in December of 2016.

Finishing early seemed like a prestigious achievement that wasn't meant for me; honestly, it happened on its own, with the challenges of my outer and inner worlds occupying me as college went on and as I grew as an individual.

As the end of the Fall 2016 semester approached, the prospects of graduation began to hit me.

The idea of being able to see my family regularly again—my family, which I had, for the past three years, been able to see only during the occasional long weekend or break—made me very happy.

Outside of that, however, I knew that I would have been (and already was) devastated by what I was required to leave behind: the friends, mentors and family I had developed at Saint Leo, my home away from home.

I had left close people behind twice before in my life; when I moved to Florida from New York in 2005, I left behind countless family members and my best friend, and when I graduated from high school in 2013, I left behind even more friends.

As such, I thought I would be used to it again. Unfortunately, however, that wasn't the case, and I found that the months leading up to my graduation were some of the toughest I'd ever had to endure following my undergraduate career.

The one thing I wish I knew when I graduated? I wish I knew how painful leaving everyone—everything—from Saint Leo so early was truly going to be.

Moving on and growing up are parts of life—that was something I taught myself to accept after moving to Florida.

Yet, moving away from Saint Leo, a place I learned to call my own, offered many challenges I wasn't yet ready to face.

From searching for a job, to applying to grad school and finally to dealing with losing the sense of purpose I had once had so recently, everything had, over time, manifested into an eventual realization: adulthood was on its way, and fast.

I had to learn to look upon myself to find purpose and happiness – to this day; this is still something I am fighting for.

Although I am grateful for such an experience, I can't help but wonder: perhaps knowing beforehand would have made the battle that much easier.

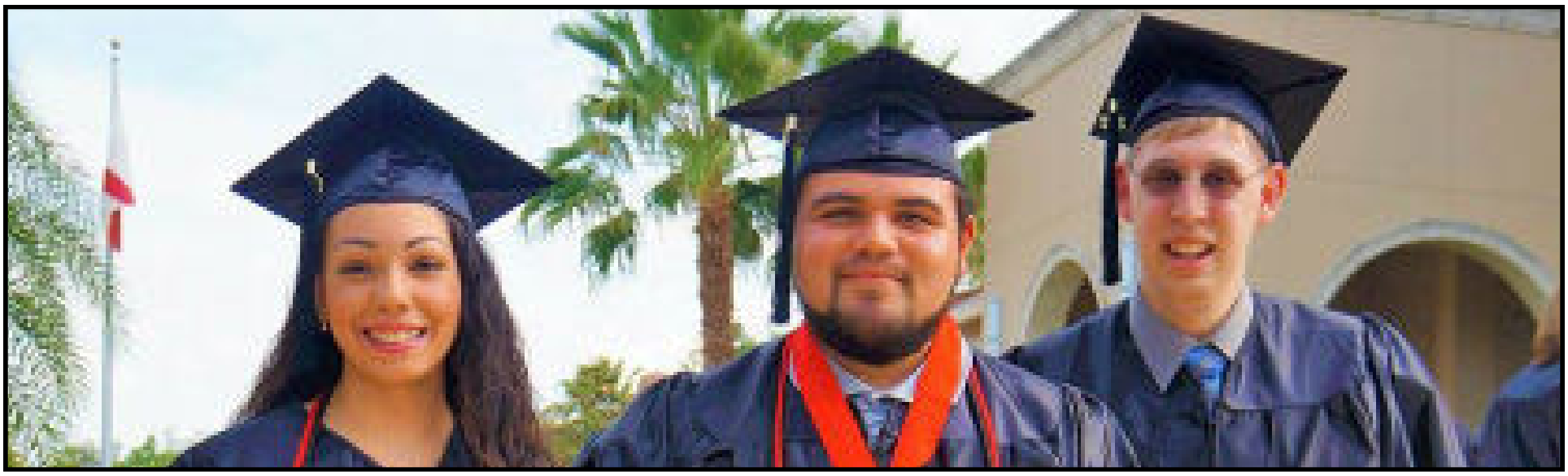


Photo Provided by Nicole Alvarez Facebook

Pictured from Left to Right: Former Layout Editor Nicole Alvarez, Former Managing Editor Nicholas Santos and Staff Writer Stephen Skipper. Like most graduates, staff of The Lions' Pride are always able to reflect on their growth throughout their college careers at Saint Leo.

Student Affairs Vice President Dr. Jen Shaw

By Erica Winn

Special to The Lions' Pride

Photo by John Hall

Dr. Shaw has solidified herself within The Saint Leo community, by attending numerous events throughout the semster.

A new vice president brings new changes with her to Saint Leo.

As of Jan. 4, 2019, Saint Leo University welcomed the new VP of Student Affairs, Jen Day Shaw. She received her bachelor's degree in political science from Transylvania University in Lexington, KY and was a member of the Women's Tennis team as well as a resident assistant. She received her master's degree in college student personnel services from Miami University in Oxford, OH, and her Ph.D. in higher education from Florida State University.

She has spent her last 25 years in higher education, with the past eight at her former position as Associate VP the University of Florida, where she oversaw 54,000 students, and was supervisor to orientation, parent & family programs, career services, student activities, Greek life, and community service.

The transition from such a large university to Saint Leo was not as difficult for Shaw as some might think.

"I went to a small private college [where we] had 1,000 students for our whole school for undergrad and I loved it," Shaw said. "If you were a student leader, you got to be an orientation leader, an RA, Greek life, and I played on the tennis team and you know, I got to do just about everything and I loved that small school experience."

Similar to her previous roles, Shaw primarily oversees all of the student affairs department at Saint Leo University. This includes Student Activities, Accessibility Services, Career Services, Counseling Services, Military and Veterans Affairs, Health and Wellness, Dining Services, and Campus Life.

Shaw comes to Saint Leo with the mindset to make some changes. The first change is Fall Freshmen Orientation. After hearing feedback from students and families, she decided to redesign the entire Freshmen Orientation starting in Fall 2019 to focus more on student engagement.

"Some of the things we're doing are [giving students] a lot more time with their Orientation Leader… to engage them and give them good advice, and help students get to know each other and answer questions," Shaw said.

She is looking to personalize the experience more for the incoming students, as well as offer engagement with staff and current students. Incoming students will have more one-on-one time with their Orientation Leaders and other upper-class student mentors. This allows incoming freshmen and parents to be fully engaged with current student leaders on campus and have them answer any questions about campus and resources available to them, and of course, to give the best support as possible. Groups such as international students, veterans, and commuters will all be able to integrate and get to familiarize themselves with their future colleagues as well.

With Fall Orientation being fully focused on engagement, online modules will be introduced to incoming students. These online modules will contain information about honor codes and the code of conduct handbooks where students can read up on and watch videos.

"During orientation you're getting so much information that you're not absorbing it," she said. "Also, students skip it, so now we have it in a module where students can access it yearlong. That way, all the heavy information students can read or watch a video."

These modules will be available to students throughout the entire year. By introducing the online modules, this allows for incoming students and parents to feel fully welcomed to the Saint Leo Community.

In addition, parents will also be allowed to stay for two full days and participate in orientation. A convocation-like ceremony will happen during Orientation, which parents are welcomed to stay and attend. This allows parents to witness their child to get to the next stage in their lives—college.

"A lot of schools at the very beginning of school do a convocation which is similar to graduation. The faculty wear the regalia, students walk across the stage, get a pin, and have their names called out," Shaw said. "Usually there is a speaker… something cool and were very excited about it, and the parents are at that too. That is the last big thing they are at, so they get to witness that and witness their child getting to the next stage in their lives."

Counseling services and therapy dogs will also be present during orientation for any support needed.

"We're just being a lot more thoughtful about how does the student feel at this point, how does the parent feel at this point, what can we do to make it better," she said.

There will also be changes to Career Services in the upcoming year. There are numerous goals to achieve within Career Services with an upgrade to help aid students' futures as they graduate.

"Career Services at a university like Saint Leo should be phenomenal," Shaw said. "It should have this huge array of services that provides to current students and alumni to help them with internships, experiential learning, resume, getting jobs… we're doing a whole bunch to prioritize Career Services to get it to that stage as fast as humanly possible."

There will be an enhancement with Career Services with deans/ departments and cataloging what needs to happen for the better of the students as they prepare to enter the real world. The new Career Services will find out what soft skills students lack according to employers and ensure that Saint Leo students have a wide variety of ways for students to learn these skills before they graduate.

This will be laid out in a comprehensive plan that gives students a road map and ability to show employers that Saint Leo students come to them with something extra. There will be an expansion of the variety of employers available to Saint Leo students for career-related experiences and positions with a special focus on national companies that may employ students from the University Campus, Centers, or Online programs. Programming and services for all Saint Leo students will be provided in a variety of modalities. Career Services is on-going progress, which Shaw looks to complete by the end of the next school year.

There will also be a new campus van and golf cart coming in Fall 2019. The van will specialize in daily routes to help aid students with getting around the area. Routes are still being figured out.

The golf cart will help aid in several things.The golf cart will be doing trips up and down the hill for the students' safety. Whether a student is sick or it's late at night, the golf cart will just be a phone call away.

"It will be a night time safety cart," she said. "There will be two students present always, wearing safety vests, flash lights, and radios where they are talking to security."

Starbucks will also be coming to campus starting in Fall 2019. While the exact location is still unannounced, there will be renovations to an area on campus where students will be able to get their Starbucks drinks and be able to unwind and do homework. There will be lots of seating, high top tables, benches—just like the typical Starbucks so students can study by themselves, with groups, or just be a social space.

The Wellness Center is scheduled to break ground in Fall 2019. The location is set to be up the hill, and there will be a weight room with treadmills, classrooms for yoga and Zumba classes, and Counseling Services and Health Services will be located there as well. The area will also be recreational areas with a possible Zen garden, more geared to appeal to international students to intermingle.

Shaw stated that her top two leadership attributes are being positive and an achiever, or go-getter. She believes that students should have a voice on campus, which is why she is making changes all around campus. She loves the size of Saint Leo University because it reminds her of her undergrad years, which she loved. She is ready to make changes that students wish to see on campus.

Six-Month Long Job Search Finally Pays Off

By Randawnique Coakley
Managing Editor &
Worldly Education Editor

A six-month search for a job following graduation with no leads seems like a typical recent college graduate's experience. This was the situation faced by one of Saint Leo's recent graduates, Brian Cerosky, a former history major.

Cerosky is currently employed as a Creative Production Artist with Amalie Oil Company (The name holders of Amalie Arena). Cerosky's job entails proofreading, editing and writing consumer labels for their motor oils. After an intense six-month search for a job, he was able to land this job in an unexpected field only after changing his prospects and rebranding himself.

Originally, Cerosky was seeking a job as a teacher; however, he found it difficult to tap into the field.

"I was planning on becoming a teacher, and I searched for four months incapable of finding anything solid in that field. I decided to rebrand myself in mid to late June when prospects were looking bleak teaching wise. I simply examined myself and my skills in terms of what I'm capable of and went with what made the most sense, that being writing," said Cerosky.

He landed this job in September just two to three months after opening up to new job opportunities and re-branding himself. This brought up his job search total to more than six months. Cerosky began to describe the experience of the lengthy job search and what it took out of him to find a job.

"Finding a job is, simply put, soul-draining. There are a lot of ups and downs emotionally when it comes to job seeking; one week you have two or three interviews you believe you nailed, and the next you get absolutely nothing, no call backs, no follow-ups, nothing," stated Cerosky.

He mentioned key lessons he learned while searching for a job that he would like students to know.

"The key I suppose is to stay determined and always seek to do something that may be a bit outside your comfort zone. If your first few options fail, don't be afraid to rebrand yourself and sell yourself to hiring managers in other areas you otherwise couldn't see yourself doing, You might just get the job."

He mentioned what he did in college that helped with re-branding himself.

"My major (history) allowed me to brand myself as an analyst, writer and researcher devoted to facts and presenting them in a way that was compelling and persuasive. The newspaper helped me with this as well. Anyone seeking to land a job after college as any sort of writer, editor or anything of the sort should look to work for the newspaper. It will take you far," said Cerosky.

One of his biggest regrets involving the job search was he felt that he didn't fully prepare for his job search before graduation.

"I regret taking as much time off as I did and I regret the sheer amount of slacking I did. You really need to hit all the job sites and postings immediately after graduation: Indeed, ZipRecruiter, Glassdoor, LinkedIn, Monster and more," said Cerosky. "You should have a resume completed and up to date far before you graduate. Do not wait. You need to be aggressive, quick and tenacious. Capitalism waits for none and second chances are few and far between."

He advises seniors in college to make sure they prepare for the job-search after college by getting accustomed to interviewing and by starting to craft their resume, but he also talked about a feeling faced by a lot of recent college graduates.

"My anxiety is through the roof considering now I would have to pay back what I owed, and I'm not sure how I'm going to do that yet. If you don't have debt coming out of college, consider yourself very lucky and be humble."

Nevertheless, his goal right now is to do his best at this current company and really show himself as a hard-working employee.

Photo provided by Brian Cerosky

Cerosky graduated Saint Leo with a degree in history, and he was able to use his work for The Lions' Pride to land a job.

"I want to do well in my company, so, for now, my career goals will be completing my work to the best of my ability and skill on time. I want to show up every day early, eager, and awake. I want to feel like I'm needed," said Cerosky. "Down the line, I would like to lead my own writing and editing team. My current position will obviously help out as many of them can be achieved by simply having any job. Start out small and work your way up."

Finally, Cerosky mentioned what he wished he knew while he was in college, such as seizing the moment.

"I wish I knew just how much could change in just 3-4 years when attending University. I wish I knew how fast it would go, and how I'd be wishing I could go back and do it all over again. I wish I knew how much your life will change after college. Enjoy your time while you still can. It sounds cliche, but I mean it."

Since graduating from Saint Leo and since working for Amalie Oil, Cerosky decided to take an opportunity to teach English in China. He explained that he will start in September.

"I will be in China for six months at the very least but if I like it, I could be there for, well, forever if I wanted," said Ceroksy.

He decided to change his career path and seek options avaliable. He advised students to explore their options as well.

Advice for Seniors

"For seniors, always look at the bright side of every situation; don't let the negatives overpower you. You'll most likely find yourself in a dark place, maybe your deepest rut in your life up to this point, but realize that if you try your heart out at interviewing and crafting your resume, you'll eventually land something worth getting out of bed for and you'll be fine."

Advice for Freshman

"For freshmen, same applies, but make sure you show up to class and perform your absolute best. Become passionate about your field of study, the University and your work. Also, learn to let loose sometimes and unwind, responsibly, I might add. Also, first impressions are everything and consistency is key."

Effects of Trump on International Students

By Randawnique Coakley
Managing Editor &
Worldly Education Editor

As President Donald Trump is continuing his presidency in the wake of the impeachment investigations, there seems to always be something new happening regarding his administration, especially regarding immigration. According to The Washington Post, before Trump's presidency, in academic year 2015-2016, there were an increase in the total number of new international students, including undergraduates and graduate students, which was high of about 301,000. However, in academic year 2017-2018, during Trump's presidency, there were only 272,000, which was 6.6 percent drop from two years prior.

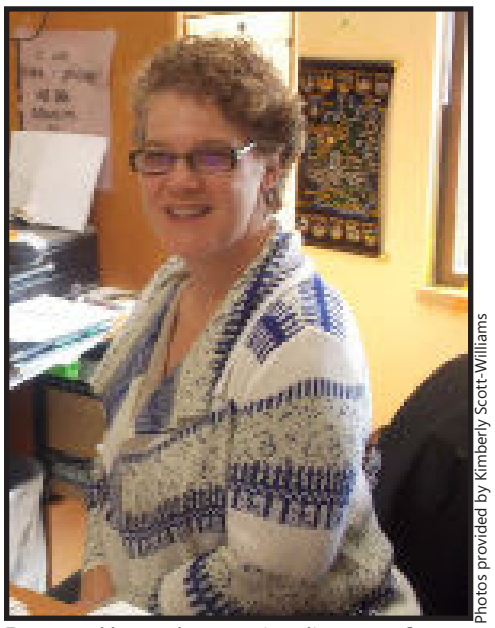
In addition, at the beginning of 2018-2019 academic year, there was preliminary data from the Institute of International Education, indicating a 1.5 percent drop in new international students arrival at universities and colleges in the Unites States, according to The Washington Post. Many schools attributed the trend to problems with student visa delays and denials and the social and political climate in the U.S, according to the institute.

Therefore, there are numerous policies or rhetoric from Trump that may have an effect on international student enrollment. One international student at Saint Leo, Aurel Ciocanu, a sophomore majoring in Global Studies and minoring in World Politics, mentioned one policy that Trump had implemented since his presidency that was shocking.

"The most shocking thing Trump has done since he began his presidency is signing the 'Travel Ban' on Mar. 9, 2017. To my eyes, this is absolutely absurd," said Ciocanu. "How can an entire nation be punished for the acts that a very small extremist minority committed? Does this represent the point of view that some Americans have towards Muslims?"

It is questionable whether Trump's antics have affected the decrease in the new international student enrollment nationwide. However, has there been a decrease in number of international students enrolled on Saint Leo University campus as well?

According to The Director of Multicultural & International Services Office, Paige Ramsey-Hamacher, the number of international students has not decreased at Saint Leo.



Photos provided by Kimberly Scott-Williams

Ramsey-Hamacher, senior director of Multicultural & International Services Office, gave insight on international students.

"Saint Leo has not seen a decline in the number of international students after Trump's presidency. The travel ban that was put in place affected international travel to the US, but for the most part, these bans have not affected students with valid F1 visas. If there are students from the specific countries banned [Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, North Korea and Venezuela (students related to diplomats from Venezuela)] that want to study in the US, they would not be able to apply for the F1 visa to do this," said Ramsey-Hamacher.

Trump has spoken on multiple occasions regarding the reformation of immigration policies, such as the changes of the H1-B application process, which is one process in which companies sponsor international students in order to stay and work in the country after graduation. However, according to Ramsey-Hamacher, the Trump administration has not made any official changes with the application process for this work visa or for the F1 visa, which permits international students to stay in the country during their college tenure and a year after for Optional Pratical Training (OPT). Therefore, despite misconceptions of tougher laws or policies set in place regarding international students, there aren't any new policies or regulation so far.

"I do not see that there are additional challenges that international students are facing because of this presidency. The F1 regulations are in place and haven't been modified since this presidency," said Ramsey-Hamacher. "International students are still welcomed to the US as long as they are maintaining their visa status. This really hasn't changed drastically from before. There are still possibilities of other visa options for work purposes (the H1B, or the EB2 or EB3 – there are likely more too, but these are the most common types) and those haven't changed."

Although there aren't major changes regarding visas for international students, there have be recent events happening with administration that changes international students' perspective of the United States' government. One recent event that has surprised various individuals, including international students, was the government shutdown that happened early this year.

According to Shantae Whyte, a junior majoring in Biological Medical Science, the government shutdown was one of the most shocking events since Trump's presidency. Before Trump's presidency, Whyte viewed the country as a place with a better economy than her country with good opportunities; but since the start of his presidency, she feels the country was revealed to have flaws as well.

"Since Trump took over, persons who share similar beliefs as him feel that they now have a platform to share these beliefs no matter how prejudice or immoral they seem," said Whyte.

However, despite Trump's presidencial antics, Ciocanu's view of the country has not changed and Trump's presidency or reelection would not affect his decision to continue his college tenure in the United States.

"Whether Trump was in power or not, my general opinion about the United States has always been and still is positive," said Ciocanu. "Regardless of the President for the next term, I will stay. Among many other reasons, I came to the United States to graduate and this is what I'm going to do."

Whyte had similar sentiments as well because she has plans after graduation of staying in the country.

"I'd most likely still stick around as I have already made plans for my future, which involves me staying here for a while. However, if in any case he makes changes that affect my documents or prevent me from achieving my set goals then I'd definitely leave," said Whyte.

There may be indications that Trump's presidency affected international students' enrollment or life after graduation in the country, but on the larger scale, there are not major effects.

International Students' Countries' Politics in Comparion to U.S.

Trump's presidency also gives way for international students to reflect on their own political leaders. Ciocanu was born in Chisinau, Moldova; but at the age of 9, he and his family moved to Montréal, Canada. He talked about the novelty of Trump's presidency, and compared it to his own political leader in Canada.

"Trump's presidency is very unique. By some, he can be described as a populist. He uses Twitter ostentatiously for his numerous remarks and communicates employing a very simple vocabulary. This may give some the illusion that he is 'closer to the people,'" said Ciocanu. "In Canada, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau does not operate much via social media and tends to word his remarks carefully. The party systems of both countries are also very different. On one hand, Canada operates on a multi-party system. Even though it has its own flaws, this system is much more diverse on the political spectrum. On the other side, the United States operates on a two-party system dominated by the Democrats and Republicans."

Whyte also mentioned that the voting system in her home country, Jamaica, is similar to United States as there are two major parties that citizens focus on. She also mentioned that votes for the two parties are more based off of tradition from the older generation and popularity. She also compared Jamaica's political leaders to Trump.

"The funny thing is that Trump is also actually quite similar to several politicians back home in regards to vulgarity and disregard for political correctness," said Whyte.

Handshake: Connecting You to Your Future Career

By Keva Lockhart
Staff Writer

According to Michael Roth, author of "Reducing the Fear of Life after College," concerns about college graduate's preparation for the work world has been a fear for years. He explained that college students go into a frenzy when they have difficulties finding jobs.

Additionally, there are many questions that are presented on the topic of career life after college, such as:
What if I can't find a job that coincides with my major?
What if I must travel a long distance to get to work?, and
What information should my employer know about me?

However, there must be a way that these questions can be addressed before students graduate. Jake Gilmour, an alumnus and a current graduate assistant at University Campus, and Miss Nancy Cheek, assistant director of Career Services, have introduced current students and alumni of Saint Leo to a career application known as "Handshake."

The Handshake app seeks to enhance career development by ensuring students are business ready, professionally branding themselves and showcasing their accolades.

Additionally, Gilmour added that the app aims to initiate networking between employers and individuals with similar career goals.

Further to this, it can be tedious when searching for employment areas for an individual's interest, Handshake also has a location feature that will search for employment for students in the areas of their choice.

For students who have been hesitant to use Handshake, it is important to note thatjobs are not limited. Gilmour added that there are approximately 1,000 jobs posted on the Handshake app.

In addition to Career Services helping students connect with jobs and internships through Handshake, the staff also help students with career plans. Gilmour mentioned how he presents to classes to assist with these.

"The road to completion campaign has been presented to numerous SLU 101 classes and aims to encourage students to begin focusing on career planning," said Gilmour.

He added that prizes are involved each time they make a presentation to a SLU 101 classes, to increase buy-in with student involvement. The top three students who fully complete their Handshake profile will be awarded a Chick-fil-a sandwich, courtesy of Career Services.

Along with expanding students' knowledge about Handshake, visiting classes, and presenting the "Road to Completion" campaign, Career Services will hold career fairs for the Saint Leo community.

Josue Audige, a junior and accounting major has found the Handshake app as a useful tool to come in contact with the working world. Audige added that he would check his profile at least twice a week and would receive notifications from companies that have viewed his profile.

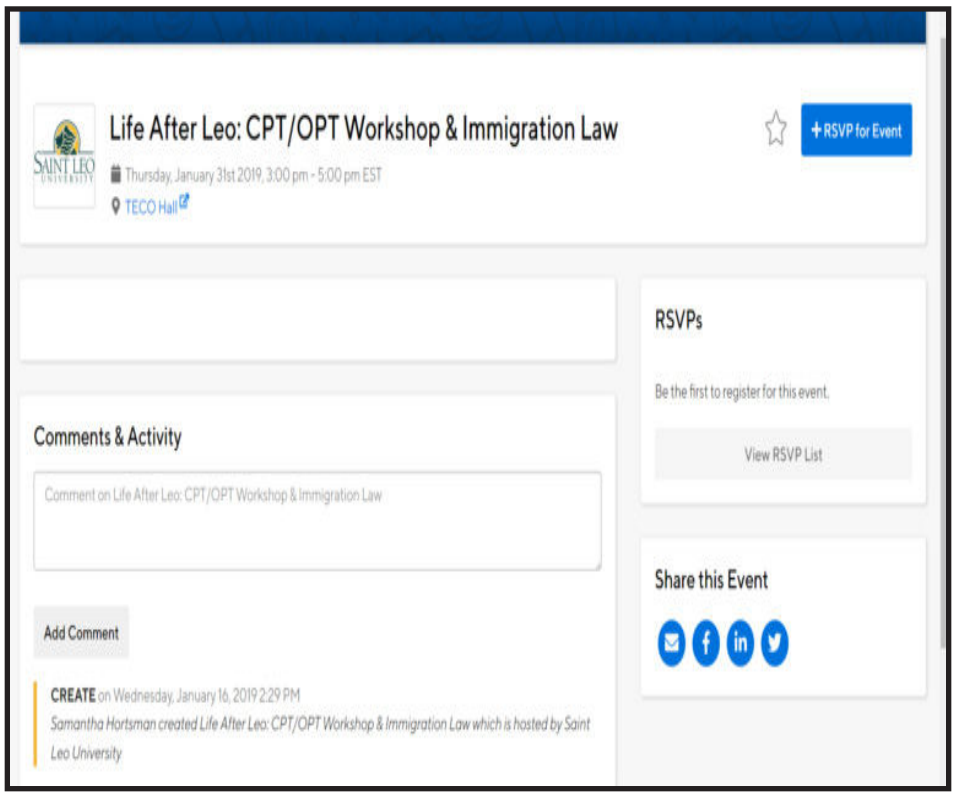
Audige also expressed that Handshake gives him the opportunity to upload his resume and transcripts to be sent to prospective employers.

Another student who has found the Handshake app to be a useful tool is Lucretia Johnson. Johnson, an online student from the Bahamas, enrolled in the online MBA in healthcare management, stated that she decided to sign up for the Handshake application because it was a platform that would allow her to have access to various job opportunities and internships.

Johnson said that she was grateful she signed up for the Handshake app because she was given great career opportunities for the future.

Additionally, Johnson is hopeful to land a job that would be the best fit for her while accomplishing professional growth.

Handshake appears to be one of the more viable options for students and alumni alike for finding jobs and internships. Logging into the app and uploading a resume or CV is easy and takes about five minutes to complete.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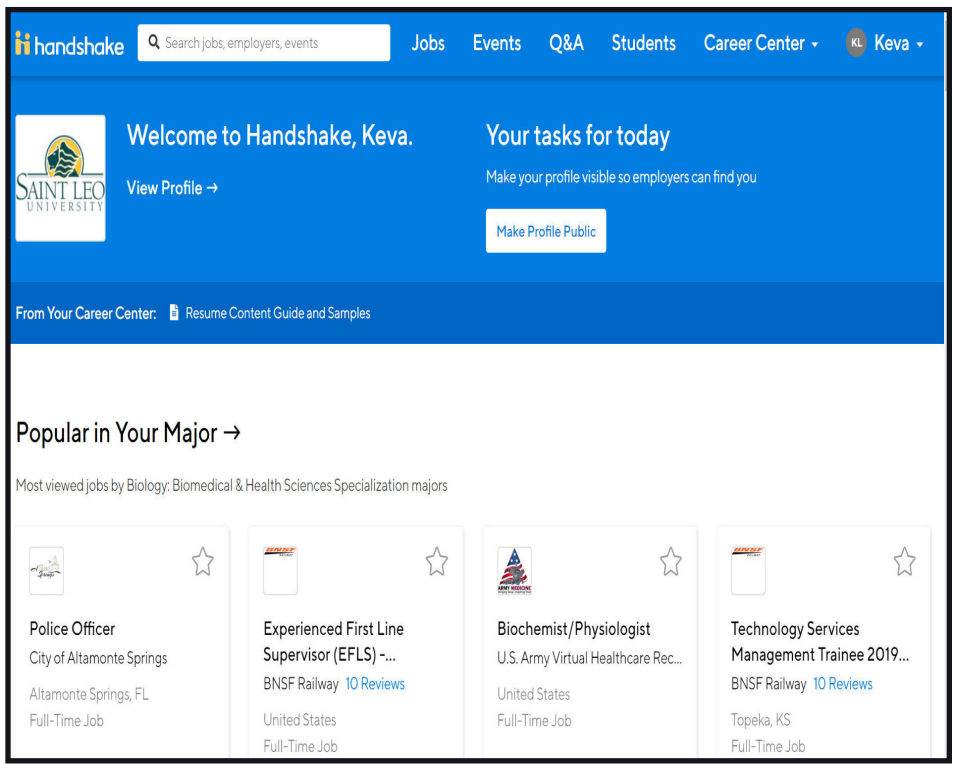

A Handshake Success Story

By John Hall
Print Editor-in-Chief &
Layout Editor

As an international student, I myself have found the application very useful securing interviews with two internships for Summer 2019. One of which is with the Uncommon School Teaching program that offers six to ten weeks of teaching experience. This is offered to persons from diverse majors, covering room and board for the duration of the time that you teach, as well as offering a really good stipend.

The other internship comes from the Southwest Florida Water Management District, who offered a similar internship in several departments including one as a Chemistry Intern in the Laboratory conducting a myriad of tasks.

Saint Leo Graduate Pursuing Acting Dreams

By Randawnique Coakley
Managing Editor &
Worldly Education Editor

Graduation is the opening of a new chapter in the lives of many individuals. However, it can be a terrifying feat, especially in the competitive job market.

One graduating senior who was able to find a job in her field of study is Emily Kochanski, a recent Saint Leo graduate, who obtained a bachelor's degree in English with a specialization in Theatre. Kochanski is currently working full time for the Pasco News Publications, which is a news organization that covers local events and stories in the Dade City, San Antonio and Zephyrhills areas.

She was working for the organization during her last semester and into the summer, and she was hired full-time. She started to look for jobs before graduation, and she advised freshman students to do the same.

"Some helpful advice for freshman would be this: don't wait until after graduating to hunt for a job. I landed the job that I'm currently working while I was still in school and it was a big load off of my mind to have it waiting for me when I left," said Kochanski.

She also gave advice for seniors as well and focused on the importance of maintaining a balance during their final year.

"Don't freak out! Your senior year will not be as tough as you think it is. Yes, buckle down and study hard, but don't forget to enjoy it," said Kochanski. "Be sure to live all of those college experiences before you walk out those doors and keep making new memories will all of your friends, especially the ones you may not see again anytime soon."

Her advice for seniors is connected to the what she experienced during her senior year. Kochanski was a commuter, and during her senior year she juggled her campus news editor position at The Lions' Pride newspaper, her internship at the Pasco County Publications and her school responsibilities, all while trying to maintain a social life.

"I wish that I had spent more time with friends while in school. Even though I still live pretty close to the campus, it's so hard to get back to visit those I left behind while juggling work and other obligations."

Although she was busy with many responsibilities, especially during her last year, she is grateful for what she was able to do and to learn. She commented on how she evolved during her time at working at the newspaper.

"My time as an editor on The Lions' Pride Newspaper really helped to better my writing and overall journalism skills. I don't think I'd have the job I do today without that experience."

During her tenure at Saint Leo University, Kochanski also performed in numerous theatrical performances on campus. She still acts and has performed in numerous plays since graduation.

"I was in a production of "Annie" right after graduation and went directly into "Calendar Girls" right after," said Kochanski. "I am also planning to audition for the upcoming national tour of "Hamilton" as well."

She also rates 'Calendar Girls' as her most interesting experience since graduation because of a revealing part of the play.

"I'd say the most interesting experience has been my current role in a Tampa production of the play 'Calendar Girls.' I have to perform naked in a room full of complete strangers," said Kochanski.

She also mentioned that her experiences at Saint Leo prepared her for the theater industry.

"My time performing plays in the Black Box Theatre, as well as all of my theatre classes with Dr. Corts, really helped to broaden my talent and teach me things that I didn't even know about myself. The Saint Leo theatre helped me grow emotionally and gave me a new found confidence that I implement into the performances that I do today," she said.

Kochanski's acting career also has been influenced by her experiences from working as a reporter. It helped her develop valuable skills and how she appreciates what she learned and what is currently being exposed to.

"I'll say this though, working as a reporter has really made an impact in my theatre world as well. Not only has it improved my writing and interpersonal skills, but it has introduced me to many interesting contacts and situations that have brought me to work in theatre. You never know just who you will meet when you get to write a story. You never know who or what has been living in your town right under your nose, practically waiting for you to find it," said Kochanski.

Her acting performances at Saint Leo and in Tampa and reporting work are helping her further her acting career, which she desires to do full time in the future. However, an acting career wasn't her original plan when she graduated from high school. In fact, before she came to Saint Leo University to major in English, she studied nursing at Pasco Hernando State College. She chose nursing as a profession because of financial security; however, she decided to change paths when she realized it wasn't her passion.

"I realized about halfway through the nursing program that it wasn't truly what I wanted to do. I began considering the medical profession in high school because I thought working in that field would give me all the financial security that I would ever need," said Kochanski. "But well into my studies, I realized that while a nursing career would bring me financial stability, it wouldn't bring me happiness. It just wasn't what I wanted to do."

Therefore, instead of nursing, she wanted to pursue an acting career; however, when she told her parents, they were surprised.

"My parents almost fainted when I told them I was giving it up for acting. Theatre was the thing I'd loved since I was a little girl. When I realized that that love wasn't going away, I just knew that it's what I had to do with my life," she added.

Kochanski provided advice for students considering switching majors like she did. She also suggests how students can follow their passion but also have some security after graduation.

"For those thinking of changing their major, I'd say take the risk. If you have second-guessed the major you've initially chosen even for a moment, then it's probably not the one for you. You have to do what you love and what you're passionate about," said Kochanski. "But it's always okay and smart, to have a safety net. Consider double majoring or taking on a minor in another career you'd enjoy to keep yourself afloat while pursuing your dream job. Journalism is my safety net. Acting is my first love and ultimate goal, but journalism is another job that I greatly enjoy and will help pay the bills while I attempt to get my big break."

Although Kochanski's ultimate career goal is acting, she is not sure exactly where she would go to advance her career.

"My future career goals are constantly changing as I learn of new opportunities in new places. I originally intended to move to Georgia, where the film industry is currently booming, and get a job working for a magazine or newspaper while trying to break into acting. But lately, I've been contemplating beginning with stage theater in New York and pursuing a job with Entertainment Weekly magazine," she said.

For now, Kochanski is exercising her acting skills through voice acting work for Saint Leo, which she started this year.

"At the start of the new year, I began working at Saint Leo part time as a Simulation Specialist. I can't reveal too much about what that entails, but I will say that it's putting my acting chops to good use," said Kochanski. "My former drama professor, Dr. Alicia Corts, is the one who let me know that they were looking to hire someone on campus. I scheduled an audition and, well, the rest is history."

Photo provided by Emily Kochanski

This summer, Kochanski plans to audition for community theater productions and take some acting workshops or travel.

She mentioned how she is able to balance all her work requirements.

"As for the balancing act, I got incredibly lucky that the Simulation Specialist position is part time. I come to campus to work on days when I'm usually not busy with newspaper assignments. My newspaper schedule is also pretty flexible most of the time so, really, it all just worked out. I am hoping that, in the future, my position as a Simulation Specialist will evolve into a full time job," she said.

In order for Kochanski to advance her acting career even further, she mentioned that she has to take a leap and venture out to different states. She lived in Florida her entire life and was raised in Dade City since the age of three, and she regrets not venturing out more to other states.

"I also wish that I'd taken a trip after graduation. I want to move out of Florida so badly and it often gets a little overwhelming and scary just thinking about how to make that kind of leap. I think a trip to New York or California, or some other dream location, would have allowed me to have a little fun and relaxation while also looking into job prospects that would aid in the process of leaving home," said Kochanski.

No matter how big her dreams are, Kochanski is grateful for her experiences and how these experiences have made her who she is and helped to enhance her skills for what she is doing now and what she is planning to do with her future.

Congratulations Undergra

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Krista Marie Abel
Jamie Kurosh Afshar
Demian M Ago-Stallworth
Anthony Thomas Agovino
Rebecca B Ahrens
Essa Nasser Al-Bader
Jacqueline Frances Albert
Lora Rae Alejandro
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Emily D Alfaya
Shelley Nicole Allen
Sierre Lashawn Allen
Salem Hamad Al-Mannai
Jabir Almarri
Abdulla Adel Almuhannadi
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Zeida Alvarez
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Tiffany Renee Anderson
Jaime Aponte
Chevon Antonio Archer
Nathalie Argueta
Alejandro Carlos Ariza
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Courtland Nicole Artis
Chandler Bradley Ash
Abigail Atanda
Charleese Austin
Naadirah Austin
Teddy Auyoma
Maryann Awantang
Bruno Babic
Nicholas Babino
Rashma Babulall-Misir
Jessica Rene Bacon
Michelle Lee Badger
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Rebeka L. Bell
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Trevor Bendert
Savannah Ariana Patricia Bendik
Cody James Benedict
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Amanda K Benson
Natalie Jean Benson
Paige Benson
Kellie Bertram
Billy Biyombo
Genesis Jose Blanco Castillo
Efy Marie Blasingame
Linda Gail Blaylock-Huggins
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Kacye Da'rell Crane
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Patrick William Cremer
Tamber Lane Crews
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Jordon Leigh Crooms
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Jaime Renee Feiler

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Amanda Nicole Neibert
Demetria Newman
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Pape Maguette Ngom
Kristina Marie Niccolls
Celeste M Nichols
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Kingsley Chukwudum Nwosu
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Shelby Jane Rexroth
Dahlia Rhoden
Tanner E Rhoden
Carlous Rhodes
Marie Richards
Shariffa Tiffany Abby-G Richardson
Gabriel Cullen Riddle
Christopher Riess
Natalie Sarah Rios
Kaylee Sue Ritzenthaler
Christopher Isaiah Rivera
Diana Rivera
Marisa Marie Rivera
Raymond Rivera
Stacey M Roberson
Oliver Prewitt Roberts
Timothy Gerard Robinson
Adinarys Robles Cruz
Jonathan Joseph Rodriguez
Tamara R Rodriguez
Tamara Rose Rodriguez
Matthew Roe-Farrell
Justine Elise Rogers
Erik Anthony Rojas
Sarah Lucille Rolfes
Rachel-Sabine Rolle
Savanna Lee Ronk
Rose Marie Rood
Mariam Roque
Eunice Rosado-Almanzar
Sean Christopher Ross
Derek Jerome Rossi
Asia A Royster
Wanit Ruekit
Jonathan Edward Ruiz
Laurimel Ruiz
Scott C Rush
Brandysha K Russell
Brittany A Russell
Donna L Ruth
Mitchell Robert Ryals
Mikhaela K Saavedra
Akshita Sahgal
David Salone
Desiree Salter
Sienna Asia Samaroo
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Destiny Sanders
Jack Santacroce
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Courtney Whitehead
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Sarah Lorraine Whitney
Abigail Wiggins
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Sandra Wilfong
Allesia Annakay Williams
Candace Alecia Williams
Fiona Chanel Williams
Jason Earl Williams
LaToshia Sharee Williams
Michael N Williams
Paquita Williams
Rachel Lynn Williams
Romario Roneil Williams
Ronequal Le'na Williams
Terrence D Williams
Tiffany Williams
Wendy Leeanne Williams
Mallory R Wilson
Dominque Wimberly
Darlene Winn
Erica Marie Winn
Andrea N Witt
Kristin Marie Wohlfarth
Jennifer Woodley
Travis M Woodruff
Jokorria Clarice Wright
Kenneth Bryant Wummel
Diamond Alexis Wyche
Jonathan Yachachin
Sidnee Yaeger
Yuga Yanagisawa
Lorenzo Yordan
Katelyn Helen Young
Jessica Isabel Zackery
Ali Ahmad Zainel
Thomas M Zimmerman
Hailey Zwanka

Graduate Program Grads

Sondra Abrams
Aimeed Acevedo-Aquino
Candelaria Acosta
Muhammad Adityanugroho
Megan Agard
John Agnello
Evelyn Aguasvivas
Lorandy Akies
Mohanad Al Azawi
Tariq Al Bqure
Yazan Al Bqure
Nicole Albert
Yarden Alfonso
Jeannette Allison
Peter Almeida
Bradley Alms
Abdulaziz Alsahafi
Josue Alvarez
Brittney Anderson
Malcolm Anderson
Mary Andrews
Dzindzi Asamoah-Wade
Matheus Assis
Sarah Atigh
Michael Austin
Nardine Badrous
Jenna Baker
Kelly Bare

Congratulations Undergra

Dominique Barker
Janae Basford
Christen Batten
Danielle Beal
Kayleigh Beaulieu
Shelby Bellamy
Rodrigo Bello Delgado
Tyler Berger
Kourtney Berry
Luis Betancur
Teresa Billingsley
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Ashley Bosques
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Jacquelyn Brown
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Nikki Burgett
Lisa Burnham
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Lelani Burrows
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Brandy Calandro
Camelia Campins-Adams
Berta Capano
Jacqueline Carlisle
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Michael Carpenter
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Adam Dodge
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Diane Dunlap
Diamy Dunton
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Dolores Echavarria
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Tarria Epps
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Mary Hall
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Justin Harris
Philio Harris
Stella Harris
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Shane Hughes
Cherrisa Hulet
Wendy Hulme
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Tristin Hunt
Emma Hutterli
Sherese Ifill
Tracy Ingram
Rebecca Inman
Latifa Jackson
Yalonda Jackson-Massil-
lon
Andrea Jean-Gilles
Jimmy Jenkins
Anevia Johnson
Kati Jones
Kwame Jones
Shavonne Jones
Shivam Joshi
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Leila Kandahari
Kethaki Karunathilake
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Slawomir Kepa
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Annekqauh Knight
Alexandra Konstantinou
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Karen Kresberg
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Zrng Kurdi
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Virginia Sigle
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Sabia Simms
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Bianca Smith
Curtis Smith
James Smith
Raheem Smith
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William Snipes
Sandra St Louis
Antoine Staten
Raydell Stevenson
Tabitha Stidham
Courtney Stith
Kenneth Stowell
Leslie Strube
Jill Studstrup
Jamille Suarez
Racquel Sullivan
Brandy Taylor
Holly Taylor
Chauvon Taylor
April Teamer
Stephanie Teixeira
Jasmine Temple
Islande Terrible
Kathleen Teske
Amanda Thomas
Briana Thompson
Catherine Thompson
Laura Thomson
Sydni Tiesler
Kathleen Tillett
Andrew Tillman
Nitty Torres
Rodrigo Torres
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Aisha Yarn
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Omar Zahran

Working on Election Campaigns After Graduation

By Randawnique Coakley
Managing Editor &
Worldly Education Editor

Cassidy Whitaker, a Saint Leo alumni who majored in political science and minored in journalism, graduated last Spring and making a significant impact in her local community. Whitaker currently works as the District Secretary for State Representative Adam Hattersley of Florida's 59th House District covering a region within eastern Hillsborough County. Her job roles include managing the district office and handling constituent service within the district. Since graduation, she had a "whirlwind" experience - as she described it - because she had various jobs before she was hired onto her current one; her various jobs were in her political realm during the campaigning for the most recent midterm election.

"I worked two other jobs prior to my current one. My graduation in late April was right at the brink of when most of the midterm election campaigns were gearing up for the primaries in August, so I first worked two campaign jobs during the summer and fall after graduating," said Whitaker. "First, for State Representative Amber Mariano's re-election campaign for her House seat and then for Kimberly Overman's campaign for a seat on the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners. I was very lucky and feel so grateful to have made the connections that I did that gave me the opportunity to work for these two women's campaigns that helped me get to where I am now."

She described her experience working on the campaigns last year, and she compared working on actual campaigns versus her previous experiences volunteering for campaigns.

"I had volunteered for a major campaign in the past and had some very limited experience with mock campaigns for my classes and helping my friends with their SGU races, but this summer was my first time ever working full time as a legitimate campaign staffer, and campaigns are hard. They're exhausting and stressful and challenging, but they're also so rewarding and enriching and give you the opportunity to meet the most incredible people," said Whitaker.

Photo provided by Cassidy Whitaker

Whitaker was honored to give the commencement speech at the Spring 2018 graduation.

Along with working on campaigns for SLU elections and engaging in mock campaigns during her classes, Cassidy had various leadership roles on campus, including Editor-In-Chief of The Lions' Pride, which prepared her for her post-graduation jobs.

"My studies and everything that I learned and experienced at Saint Leo impact my job every day. The courses that I took, the opportunities I seized, and the professors that guided and taught me throughout my time at Saint Leo are the foundation of my knowledge of the political process and the significant effect of politics on our daily lives within our country and around the world. Of course, there's a lot that you can learn in the field as you go, but there's also a whole lot that you need to understand beforehand to be effective in creating the most change possible," said Whitaker.

Photo provided by Cassidy Whitaker

Whitaker worked on the Kimberly Overman's campaign last year. Overman won the election to become the new county comission for Hillsborough County.

She also contrasted her post-grad experiences regarding her work life with her home life, which she described it as surprisingly pleasant. She mentioned that she was not looking forward to moving back home, but talked about the benefits of doing it.

"Like many college seniors approaching graduation, I dreaded moving back home after living with my friends in my own place for four years (sorry, mom)," said Whitaker. "Although I quickly realized after being home that I really enjoyed being back with my family and other close friends that I hadn't spent meaningful time with in a long time."

Her friends were also very impactful to her Saint Leo experience, and she mentioned regrets regarding her final semester at Saint Leo.

"One [thing] that I have that I wish I had done before graduating was make and complete a 'Saint Leo bucket list' with silly experiences unique to our school like going to the Grotto at night or sharing one last night at Pin Chasers or Applebee's with my friends. I told my friends that I wanted to do this throughout my final semester, but sadly got caught up with the chaos that your last semester in college entails and never ended up doing it. However, despite not officially making my Saint Leo bucket list, I had an absolutely unforgettable final semester," said Whitaker.

She even advised seniors to learn from her mistakes and to spend time enjoying their final semester at Saint Leo.

"My advice for the senior class would be to enjoy every moment of this last semester and take advantage of every last opportunity available to you. I know this is what literally every nostalgic post-grad says, but it really is the truth. Although I'm very happy with where I'm at in my life now, there are very few days that go by that I don't miss Saint Leo and the blissful simplicity of life in college," said Whitaker.

She also took time to give advice to freshman, focusing on how they can appreciate and cherish their time and their overall journey at Saint Leo.

"Advice that I would give to the freshman class about graduation would be to not wish that it would come sooner. Work hard in your classes and get as much out of the remarkable professors and courses that Saint Leo has to offer as possible and seek out and take advantage of the experiences to be had from every possible opportunity available, but savor your time here and don't wish it away. As far as after college, I'd say to just trust that Saint Leo has prepared you for the bright and successful future that lies ahead of every one of its graduates."

She commented on the months following graduation, and what she wished she knew but what she had learned since then.

"Before graduation, I wish I had known that the next nearly seven months were going to be some of the most challenging times of my life, but that afterwards everything was going to be unbelievably worth it and that I was going to end up exactly where I'm supposed to be," said Whitaker.

Other than talking of time at Saint Leo and her post-grad challenges, Whitaker looks to her future as well. She mentioned a future career goal and how her current position as a district secretary can help her in achieving her goals.

"My ultimate career goal is to run for office someday. I don't yet know what I want to run for or when I'd even feel fully ready to do something that big, but I know without a shadow of a doubt that public service is what I want to do," said Whitaker. "My current job as a staffer for a legislator will definitely aide me in reaching my ultimate goals in the future because I'm getting to experience the political process firsthand and help serve the members of my community with issues they care about and that affect their lives. You hear the phrase 'All politics is local' a lot in my field, and I really believe that this couldn't be truer. Politics is fundamentally rooted in grassroots organization and the work of passionate activists, and it all starts at the local level."

Saint Leo President, Faculty, & Student at Legislative Day

By Randawnique Coakley
Managing Editor &
Worldly Education Editor

One student can make a difference. Political Science Sophomore Darelis Ortiz-Vega attended Legislation Day on March 12, 2019 with President Jeffery Senese, Special Secretary to the President Molly-Dodd Adams, and Instructor of Political Science Mr. Frank Orlando. Legislation Day is held in Tallahassee every year.

The purpose of this Legislative Day was to lobby for the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF). ICUF consists of 30 schools, which are private institutions in Florida that are part of the program.

Different students are nominated as fellows every year to represent their universities at this Legislation Day and lobby for the EASE Grant, which is a grant recieved by Florida residents who attend any ICUF institution. One of the fellows this year for Saint Leo University was Ortiz-Vega. As a nominated fellow for the ICUF Program, Ortiz-Vega went through a training process to learn some statistics and facts about ICUF and EASE Grant in order to prepare for the Legislative Day.

"In this day-long training session, I became informed about the number of students who receive the EASE Grant, which schools are part of the ICUF program, and other important statistics in order to explain how big of an impact this Grant has on students who are Florida residents to the legislators," said Ortiz-Vega. "Additionally, I had to write letters to our Florida legislators to thank them for their support of the EASE Grant, formerly known as FRAG (Florida Resident Access Grant), and ask for their continued support in this upcoming legislative session."

She explained further how at the Legislative Day the fellows are able to lobby on behalf of the ICUF.

"In short, this event is an opportunity to talk to our state's representatives to tell them how much this grant means to us personally, and to the students that we represent. The goal is to talk to as many legislators as possible who will vote on this grant to encourage them to support it and sign off on it when they see it on the table," said Ortiz-Vega. "The EASE Grant is only applicable to private universities, and therefore we are the only schools that are able to lobby for an increase of that Grant or for it to remain the same."

The Grant for last year was settled at $3,500. This was Orlando's fifth ICUF day in Tallahassee, and he serves as the advisor for Saint Leo student attendees. He mentioned the influence that lobbying has on the legislators' decision to increase or decrease funding of the grant over the years.

"We are usually able to at least keep funding where it's at or increase it. It depends on the state budget's situation, but we're hoping to keep funding at at least 3,500 for the upcoming year. Right now, the House committee is proposing a cut, while the Senate is proposing to keep funding where it's at. I hope students that value EASE write their legislators and thank them for their continued support while emphasizing how important the grant is. The process should wrap up in the next month or so," said Orlando.

Photo provided by Darelis Ortiz-Vega

President Senese, Mr. Frank Orlando, and Darelis Ortiz-Vega attended Legistlation Day, and met with Saint Leo alumna, Cassidy Whitaker.

"I had such an incredible experience. I would do it all over again in a heartbeat, in the blink of an eye! First of all, I still cannot believe that I was nominated and had the privilege to meet and speak to our state's representatives. It was such an honor and blessing to be chosen to represent my University, a place that I love and is my second home. I can't thank the people who chose me enough." – Darelis Ortiz-Vega

Ortiz-Vega who is a part of the 3+3 Accelerated Law School Program, along with the Political Honor Society and other organization, mentioned her expectations of the Legislative Day and the importance of the EASE Grant to her.

"Before the event, I really wished to be honest and genuine when speaking to the legislators so that they could see how much this grant does mean to me. In the words that I shared with them, I told them that this grant allows me to attend Saint Leo," said Ortiz-Vega. "Coming from a family that has had financial hardships all of our life, this grant is one of the reasons why I am able to attend a university at all. I am extremely appreciative, and let them know that they are not supporting the EASE Grant in vain. Many hard working students benefit from this Grant."

Ortiz was able to make an impact by talking to various legislators by telling her story, and she explained that at the event, Senese, Adams, Orlando, and herself, who were together for a majority of the time, worked together as well to make an impact with lobbying.

"We scheduled appointments with the legislators beforehand so that we could come to their office and speak to them personally and privately. While in their offices, Senese and/or Frank told them about ICUF Schools and other statistics that they found relevant, then I told the legislators my story," she said. ""When I was telling my story to the legislators, I came to the realization that where one comes from does not at all determine where one is going. I would've never believed you if you told me that I would be where I am today, especially at the state's Capitol representing thousands of my peers and my University."

Ortiz-Vega really encapsulated her overall experience at the Legislative Day.

"Overall, it was such an unforgettable experience because Senese, Orlando, and Molly made it such a fun and easygoing day. They calmed my nerves and encouraged me to not be afraid, to just say what my heart felt it should say. I have to give them props for being so supportive before, during, and after the legislative session. They were my anchors."

Ortiz-Vega really appreciated her experience and she encourages other Saint Leo students to engage in this event for next year as well.

"I would absolutely, hands down, without a doubt recommend the next student(s) to accept the nomination to such a wonderful event and experience. I learned more about the legislation in one day than I did in years of taking classes about the government. Not only that, I learned a lot about myself in one day. Those two days were days full of many divine realizations that I now carry in my heart forever," said Ortiz-Vega.

Orlando also advises students to participate in this event. However, the students are generally selected from the political science majors, and they must be Florida residents to be eligible. He also encouraged students to write to their legislators and emphasize the importance of the grant as another way to make an impact on the EASE Grant.

The Book Clubs To Join At Saint Leo

By Fatimma Abu-Rumman
Contributing Writer

Saint Leo offers a plethora of on-campus clubs and organizations that students can participate in, for example, the Pre-Med club, Gaming Club, K-pop and Anime Club, Poetry Clubs and many more. Students also have the ability to enter a process that will allow them to create a new club.

Two of the on-campus clubs are the Cannon Memorial Library Readers Club, run by Mr. Angel Jimenez, and the Student Book Club, run by Dr. Kathryn Duncan. Although two separate clubs devoted to reading literature may seem excessive, each club has its own purpose and structure that generates a unique environment for participants to discuss and enjoy the selected text.

The Cannon Memorial Library Readers Club was started with the intention to increase literary culture on campus, something Jimenez finds to be particularly important considering that Saint Leo is a Liberal Arts University. Jimenez mentioned the main intention of the club is to create a space where students, staff, and faculty are all on common ground.

"Nobody is giving grades, there is no hierarchy. We try to structure it [the club] in a horizontal way as opposed to a hierarchical way," said Jimenez.

The club is relatively new, having started up last semester when participants would meet once a month to discuss the text and continuing into this Spring 2019 semester where participants now meet twice a month in the café area of the library.

The club gravitates towards literature that addresses social justice issues including a range of authors coming from different cultural backgrounds including British, Japanese, African American, Nigerian, and German. Topics covered by the literature and discussed as a group include domestic abuse and resistance to it, political tyranny and resistance to it, imperialism (Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro), gentrification (Sula by Toni Morrison), and the history of racism in the US (Kevin Young poetry).

The literature is selected by receiving suggestions from the members and using those suggestions to create a program of texts to read throughout the semester.

Some students mentioned interest in graphic novels and so the spring semester program includes a graphic novel. The dates of meetings and the books are determined prior to the first meeting of that semester based on member availability. According to Professor Jimenez, the best part of the club is, "hearing student's perspectives because students will say things that are just mind-blowing. I didn't see that at all and it just makes perfect sense".

He enjoys being able to learn from the students and faculty and hear different understandings of the same text. The biggest challenge is scheduling and publicity. The club would love to have more members but it is difficult to spread the word and gain new members.

Jimenez wants potential members to know that the Readers Club is an inclusive space.

"People are welcome to come join the discussion, even if they have not read the book or poetry for the meeting. Students are welcome to come sit and just listen if they wish; there will be a theme or topic that comes up that is relevant to everybody, so even if someone hasn't read the books they can still have something to say, if they want to. Everyone's voice has value," said Jimenez.

Students receive the literature that is being read, either online free or provided by the club as a hardcopy book, as well as free T-shirts.

The Student Book Club was started back in 2001 for a similar reason that the Cannon Memorial Readers Club was. Duncan would ask her students what books they liked to read for fun and the general answer was a resounding "none."

As an English professor, this hurt Duncan's heart and she wanted to find a way to encourage students to read for fun, thus she started the informal club to create a reading space that did not involve quizzes, tests, or essays but rather a

Photo provided by Wikimedia Commons

The Dames & Peace Caves being only an hour or less away from Saint Leo is the perfect place to go caves if you are looking for adventure.

space for students to select books they were interested in and enjoy them with others. The club meets anywhere from 2-3 times a semester, depending on the current members and how avid of readers they are.

The club meets in Duncan's office, or occasionally in a reserved room depending on the number of students attending. She provides food and drink for the students to enjoy during the meeting. The club continues reading during the summer and conjoins in the fall to discuss the books. The books read include Young Adult books as well as more mature, adult level book. However, they do not sit down and read Shakespeare or any literature that is difficult. There are no restrictions, goals or objectives when choosing books or topics to discuss. The students choose the books they read so that the club can convene and, "just have fun and talk about what we like... If there is a movie we almost inevitably discuss the movie," according to Duncan.

The club is meant to be casual and relaxed as well as mainly student run. Duncan is in charge of scheduling and snacks, however, the rest she leaves up to the students. Duncan enjoys hearing the discussions and of course, the actual reading of the books. The students bring new books to her, and each other's, attention that they may not have read on their own.

Duncan what potential members to know that everyone is welcome.

"They are welcome and that it's not just English majors, it is interdisciplinary and whoever wants to come is welcome," she said.

One of the challenges she experiences, similar to the Readers Club book club, is publicity and gaining new members. The majority of members either know Duncan and trust her to not force them to read Shakespeare, or they tag along with friends who attend the meetings. Duncan would love to have more people come and be a part of the fun.

Both of these clubs are looking for new members to come discuss their ideas, opinions and viewpoints. Each club brings important Saint Leo values to the table, the most prominent one being Community. These clubs both provide a space for members to actively participate and meet new people while sharing ideas and learning in a fun, encouraging way.

If you are interested in joining either club, feel free to email Duncan at kathryn.duncan@saintleo.edu or Jimenez at angel.jimenez@saintleo.edu to express your interest.

How To Enjoy Summer On A Budget

By Camila Silva
LionsShare Manager

As summer approaches, students start to make plans to the most waiter season of the year. Even if you have to work or you have a budget to stay in during these months, that doesn't mean you can't have fun. In Florida, there are lots of free and fun things to do even on a budget.

One of the first things you can do during summer is to visit the beach. Florida has beautiful beaches you can visit.

Just 1 hour and 40 minutes from campus, Siesta Key Beach earned the no. 1 beach in the United States on TripAdvisor in 2015, and it's easy to see why. The beach has some of the whitest sand in the world. There, you have three beaches you can choose. Siesta Key Public Beach, Turtle Beach and Crescent Beach.

Siesta Key Public Beach just went under renovations and now has a playground, family picnic area and the Siesta Sun Deck pavilion.

Turtle Beach is a camping ground, which features 40 RV and tent sites, that include free Wi-Fi, picnic areas and grills, kayak launch and boat ramps.

Crescent Beach is ideal for watching the sunset. It is also suitable for fishing near the Point of Rocks area.

There are shops and restaurants on the beaches. It is also worth mentioning that parking is free!

Clearwater is also a good beach to visit. Clearwater was on the top 10 beaches in America nominated by USA Today. This beach also has bright, white sand and a family-friendly environment.

You can enjoy the beach and the local shops and restaurants around it. You can also take a walk on the Pier 60 and watch a beautiful sunset from there. The beach also has festivals year-round, so whenever you go, you can be sure that there will be a celebration.

North Redington Beach & Redington Shores is also a beautiful place to visit around 1 hour from Saint Leo main campus. These are small towns close to the great attractions, and since these communities don't get as much attention as their surrounding communities, this can be a great place to relax.

In Redington Shores the beaches have white sand, abundant fishing, boating and wildlife. This is also a kid-friendly place to go with your family and watch the sunset over the Gulf of Mexico.

North Redington Beach is also a relaxing place to visit. This area is quieter and has attractions like museums, art galleries, and boutiques.

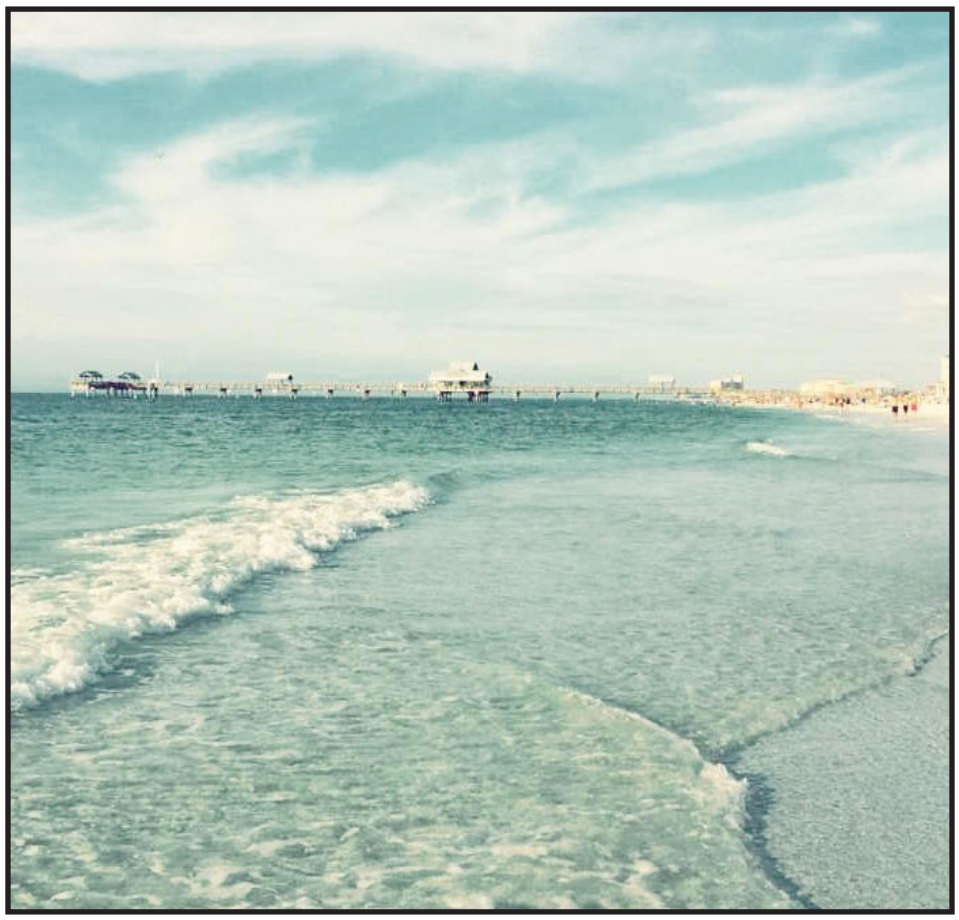
If you like adventures, you could also consider going to Dames & Peace Caves. Dames Cave is one of the oldest caves in Florida and it is worth the trip. These caves are around 1 hour away from Saint Leo's main campus and it will make you fall in love with nature. The significant part about this is that parking is free, which can be a bonus for many people.

The hikes are well kept, and because the place is not very well known, people don't need to worry about encountering big crowds. Because it is not very crowded, you can stop and relax once you are in the caves, take pictures, enjoy some food and explore it even more.

As a student, you can also enjoy discounts using your student ID. Everybody knows how hard it is to be a student and not have a lot of money laying around to spend.

Luckily, there are places like restaurants, stores, cinemas and shops that give you discounts for being a student. Some examples of places that offer discounts for students are Waffle House, Denny's, Subway, Smoothie King, Banana Republic, Moe's, Dunkin Donuts, services like, gym memberships, museum tickets, theme parks and much more.

You can get as high as 30% off when using your student ID in some of these places. It is recommended that you call the store to make sure that the store can give you a student discount. Now go out and have the best summer ever!



When visiting Clearwater If you want to take a break from swimming in the beautiful water or tanning in the sun tak a walk to Pier 60. This is the perfect spot to catch the sunset as well.

Photo provided by Wikimedia Commons

The Dames & Peace Caves being only an hour or less away from Saint Leo is the perfect place to go caves if you are looking for adventure.

Ocala Education Center Two Years Strong

By John Hall

Print Editor-in-Chief&

Layout Editor

Approximately one hour North from University Campus, The Ocala Education Center has been holding classes strong, for just over than two years since officially opening at 1930 SW 38th Ave. The centers' Director Rena Thomas said that even though they may not be on of main campus, they are still connected as a result of stellar leadership from V.P. of Saint Leo World Wide Dr. Melanie Storms.

Dr. Thomas has been with Saint Leo University for seven years and the Centers' Director for the last two spoke about the benefits of being within close proximity to Main Campus. Thomas said, "I think Ocala has a benefit over the centers because we are physically close." Thomas continued, "Our staff and students can also attend events that happen at Main Campus, so even though we are apart, we do have a good connection with the University.

Speaking to the student engagement with students at the Center, Thomas said of the 200 students that are registered under her, many of them are non-traditional students with families and other obligations. Thomas expressed that enjoy both on ground and online classes and events are held regularly however many find it hard to come to the Center in lieu of their many obligations.

Despite this, the students have two lounges where they can eat or watch T.V. that will encourage them to stay around. Reiterating these words was senior majoring in Marketing and advertising Akshita Sahgal expressed her elation for the experiences in the times she has attended the Center. Akshita said, "Because I am from India, the way they accepted me with open arms has been really interesting to me." She continued to recount of an experience where a Regional Spotlight was placed on and highlighted India, which gave her an even warmer and welcoming feeling into the environment.

Akshita said that there was more attention given to students at the admissions office as opposed to other universities. Akshita said that the Admissions department called her and followed up with her every step along the way, which encouraged her to attend the university.

Since enrollment, Akshita joined the Alumni board of directors as a student representative which has opened many doors for her. "I got to experience a lot through my studies, but also outside of the classroom through networking opportunities via the International Desk and Career Services," said Akshita. Despite graduating in May, Aksheda intends to return to Saint Leo to complete the Masters degree program in Marketing, grounding herself into the Community even more.

Anton McCullough Admissions Director has been with the university since 2013 and with the Ocala center since 2015. As an alumnus one of the challenges McCullough expressed was the difficult of expressing the importance of writing papers.

As a part of the Doctoral program in Management at the University, McCullough finds it the best practice to remind students why they started to pursue the degree initially, and through this process he encourages himself to continue pursuing his endeavors.

Looking forward to the second half of the year McCullough expressed his ambitions from his office stating, "I hope to continue bringing more students to the center, while spreading the word of the great things not only the University is doing, but the Ocala Center.

Additionally, a potential new student Mr. Emmanuel Denunzio fascinated by what he heard about Saint Leo expressed his view of joining the Center as a result of culture he had seen.

Having experienced the enrollment process before Emmanuel said that it was not a pushy process, he was being advised and accommodated while having a clear path for the next years for his life. Emmanuel said, "I have a passion for Computer Systems Information, and I think Saint Leo is going to be a great fit for me." Emmanuel conveyed that there was a sincerity and homely feeling to speaking with the staff there that has prodded him to halt looking at any other colleges, as he will enroll as soon as possible.

As 25 Ocala Center students prepare to walk in the May graduation, the machinery driving the Center is in full operation, attracting new students while fostering better relationships with those that are already apart of the Community.

Photo by: John Hall

At the Centers' opening Melanie Storms, V. P. of Saint Leo Worldwide, in a sobering tone, said that the expansion brings the opportunity for Saint Leo to be present in the Ocala community. This holds true as the location is home to 200+ students.

Photo by: John Hall

Akshita Sahgal 2019 Ocala Center graduate and Marketing major, expressed her elation for the experiences in the time she has attended the Center. Akshita said, "Because I am from India, the way they accepted me with open arms has been really interesting to me

Photo by: John Hall

The Ocala center is outfitted with ten classrooms, featuring the latest technology similar to that found in the School of Business and Kirk Hall on University

Green Dot Celebrates Four Years On Campus

By Keva Lockhart
Staff Writer

According to the National Institute of Justice, most sexual assaults occurring in colleges go unreported and unpunished. It has been reported that 70% of victims do not inform the police of incidents that take place.

Ideally, the 24-hour campus security services are very efficient; however, it is essential that faculty, staff and students follow the core values of Saint Leo University since everyone plays a pivotal role in protecting the community.

As an additional measure, Saint Leo University has implemented the Green Dot program, which has made successful progress in their four years of service in protecting the community as it relates to violence and sexual assaults.

The primary focus of Green Dot is one of the few violence prevention programs on campus seeking to prevent the rates of perpetration, sexual assaults, domestic violence, and stalking. Additionally, Green Dot serves as a way for individuals to become aware that violence should in no way be tolerated, further informing them that everyone can assist in eradicating violence.

Green Dot Coordinator Ms. Aubrey Hall, explained that the Green Dot organization was funded by the Florida Department of Health. When the organizers applied, they gained access to implement the program enabling them to be approved for a five-year grant.

Hall further stated that there were three tracks that their agency could choose from to set up shop which included community colleges, or high school based tracks. As a result of their closely- knitted ties with Saint Leo University and their desire to work with college students, they chose the college track.

Hall and her Green Dot agency made this decision based upon the realization that college students are reported to have a higher risk of incidents of sexual violence and assaults, dating violence, and stalking.

The purpose of Green Dot at Saint Leo University is to engage and empower a community of bystanders to not only recognize power-based violence, such as dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, but also to provide tools for intervention.

The program will enable the community to intervene if they see any of these actions taking place, thus instilling social norms of a non-tolerant power-base violence community . Additionally, it will provide a foundation for individuals visiting or incoming students at Saint Leo to know that this is a community that have zero tolerance for violence.

Above all, within the four years Green Dot has been implemented at Saint Leo, they have made exceptional accomplishments and created numerous ways of promoting the program. According to Hall, there has been a total of 300 individuals that were trained, such as staff and students, with the majority being students.

Some programs that Green Dot has launched include "Connecting the Dots" that began this semester. This program is an eight-week long program promoting and engaging students in the knowledge of relationships, social norms, and social media.

The use of pop culture is used in this program, so that it can be more relatable to students. For example, this year February, there was a discussion called "Cuffing season," which sought to define what relationships are. As well as "Thank you...Next," that talked about breakups and makeups. Thank you next focused on couples who broke up, explaining steps of breakups and how to recognize concerning behavior in a relationship.

Another success story of Green Dot is that for the past 3 years, the staff had the opportunity to train all Resident Assistants on campus, rendering all RA's Green Dot certified. To be Green Dot certified, one must attend the "By- stander training," which is typically around the awareness months. These include October, which is domestic violence month, April, which is sexual assault awareness month, as well as few others throughout the year.

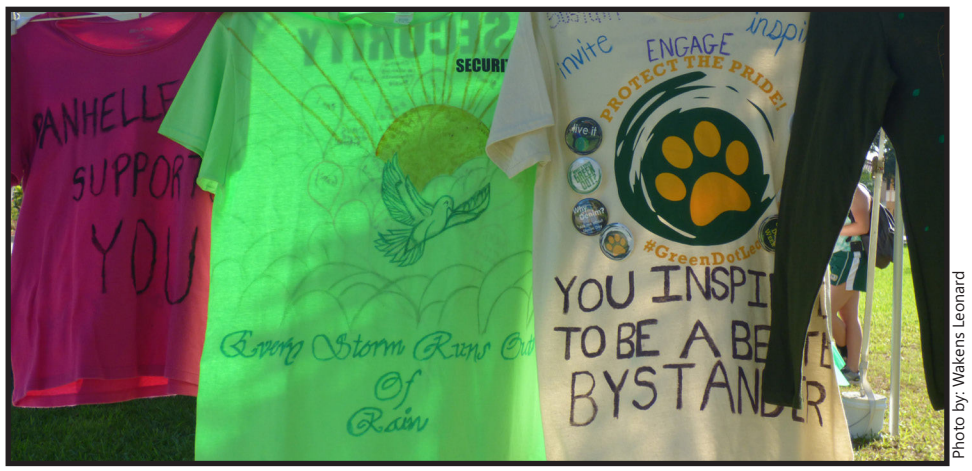


Photo by: Wakens Leonard

Green Dot is one of the violence prevention programs on campus seeking to prevent the rates of perpetration, sexual violence, and assaults, dating violence and stalking.

Photo by: Wakens Leonard

Green Dot is that for the past three years, they had the opportunity to train all Resident Assistants on campus, rendering all RA's Green Dot certified.

Likewise, Green Dot has taken awareness to the athletic sector of the university. Last year, the staff trained three athletic teams namely: the women's lacrosse, volleyball team, and basketball team. Hall explained that one of Green Dots' main concerns is to work with seniors, training them and bestowing a graduation cord when completed.

Additionally, working closely with seniors provides them with life skills that will enable them to take Green Dot beyond the University. Destiney Bailey, a graduating senior studying Bio-Medical and Health Science and an RA, said that Green Dot was very helpful to her both as a student and an RA. She learned that violence is intolerable, and that she can play a part in violence prevention wherever she goes based on the knowledge she achieved from Green Dot.

Similarly, Ms. Maeisha McDermott, a graduating senior also studying Bio- Medical and Health Sciences, stated that she thought Green Dot was very effective for her and the students at Saint Leo University. McDermott views Green Dot as a way students can gain knowledge and tools to identify harmful situations and make a difference. McDermott intends to use strategies that she has learned from Green Dot training in real life situations. She stated that she will use simple distraction, direction, and delegation through all RED Dot situations.

As the semester comes to an end, April is sexual assault awareness month and Green Dot hosted various activities. The biggest event for the month was the culmination of all their activities the annual "Take back the campus," held on April 10. Over the past years, this event has drawn a lot of students to participate, this year was no different. The event consisted of 25 tables where students could participate in activities that promote appropriate behaviors when confronted with inappropriate ones, further solidifying what actions should be taken, but also allowing attendees to obtain tickets to win prizes.

Starbucks Moving On Campus

By Bernard Ramos
Advertising Manager

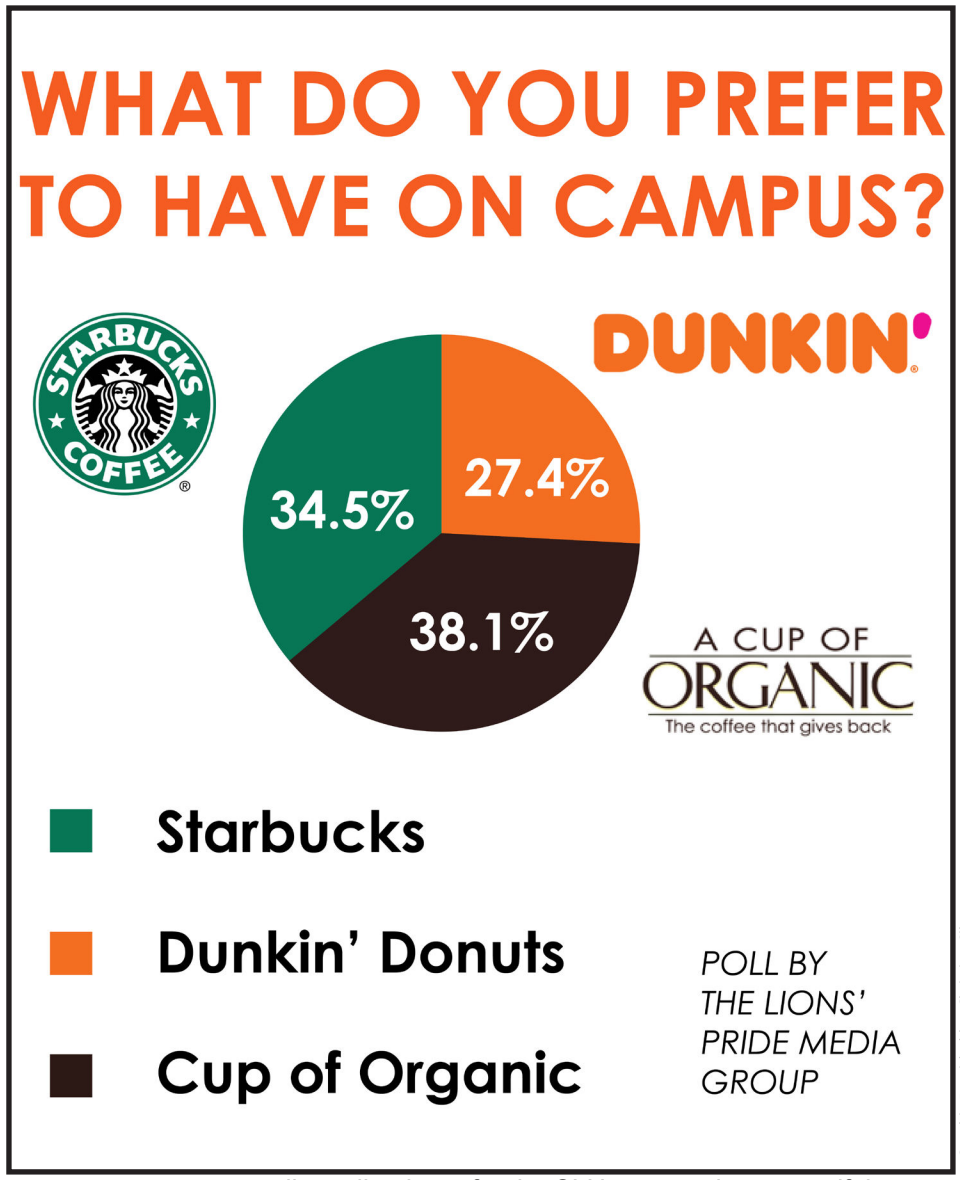
Multiple changes within the last year as Dr. Senese has taken over as the 10th President of Saint Leo University. One change that will possibly resonate with the students the most is that there will be a Starbucks on campus. If everything goes to plan, this is expect in Fall 2019.

Dr. Melanie Storms, the Vice President of Saint Leo University, commented on the reason why the popular chain was chosen to come to the University Campus.

"Starbucks was chosen because of the popularity of the brand as well as the ease of establishing a 'We Serve' location compared to other brands," said Dr. Storms. "This will be a 'We proudly serve' location, which means it will be our establishment serving Starbucks products and using Starbucks equipment. While a few colleges house actual Starbucks franchises, most are operated as 'we serve' locations. The primary differences are that Starbucks rewards are not recognized, and we control the food options and other details of the operations at the location."

When asked about the opening date of the coffee shop, she stated they were looking at a Fall semester opening if all goes as plan. Another opportunity is the leadership will be in control of the hiring student employment with the opening of the Starbucks on campus. Adding to this, Carlos Pena, a Biology major and Junior, believes that it is a good idea to bring a Starbucks on campus because hopefully, it can bring more chains on campus.

Photo provided by Cassidy Whitaker



Graphic Provided by: Christian Silva

The Lions' Pride ran a poll sending it out for the SLU community to vote if they wanted a Starbucks, Dunkin or Cup of Organics on campus.

Adding on from Dr. Storms, the administration is in the process of increasing their dining opportunities expanding the dining options on campus. Damon Davis, a senior, likes the idea of a coffee shop on campus because it is a place for dedicated coffee drinkers to get their coffee, but he does wish that this plan came out sooner.

It seems that Starbucks will have an impact on campus. As it is nearly impossible to get every students' opinion, The Lions' Pride Media Group decided to run a poll sending it out for the SLU community to vote if they wanted a Starbucks, Dunkin, or Cup of Organics on campus. Setting up the poll through The Lions' Pride social media pages, there was a total of 168 votes. In the results, 38.1% voted for Cup of Organic, 34.5% voted Starbucks, and 27.4% voted for Dunkin'. Looking at these results, the small amount of the SLU community preferred Cup of Organic.

Meghan Tapia a Biology major and Junior who is interested in Cup of Organic believes "Cup of Organic is family owned and has been part of the community for six years. The spirit of the company would align perfectly with our core value of community, rather than having a large chain company that you can get at just about any corner."

Many students are most likely wondering where the new Starbucks might be located on campus. As of right now, there is not many details on the exact location, but it is known that it will be easy to access and centrally located. This Starbucks on campus will be closest to the Dade City area as currently the closest is in Wesley Chapel 8.6 miles away from campus. This brings the question if Starbucks is only accessed by students or the community outside will be able to come on campus and use it as well. According to Dr. Senese, Starbucks will be for the community outside of campus as well. The reason for this is to help build a strong relationship with the outside community hoping Saint Leo can get more recognition and support.

As the opening of the new Starbucks on campus inches closer, there appears to be positives that Starbucks will be bringing to our campus and community. However, Starbucks will not be called "Starbucks," even though Starbucks products will be sold. As of right now, there is not a name for the new coffee shop. Dr. Jen Shaw and Dr. Storms are hoping students can give some ideas for the name. If anyone has any names, please share your thoughts to Jen.Shaw@saintleo.edu for consideration.

Volunteering Leads Graduate To A Job Offer

By Randawnique Coakley
Managing Editor &
Worldly Education Editor

Ever consider working at company but there is a slim chance for being hired? Ever considering volunteering to get that job opportunity?

Illousia Salazar, a recent graduate in Multimedia management, has a job opportunity at the Pasco Sheriff's Office as a Social Media Coordinator but did so after volunteering for the office after graduation. She is waiting to start as someone at the position. However, she was not able to start the job right after graduating, even after interning for the office in her final semester. Instead, she volunteered at this organization before being offered the job. Salazar mentioned how it was and why she did this.

"It was tough going from working for the newspaper for three years to not having a job after. What I did was I kept going to my internship as a volunteer to let them know that I was interested in getting a position there whenever one would be available," said Salazar.

However, she has advice for students regarding finding a job after college.

"Not having a job after college in the field you want is going to be the toughest challenge you have yet to face, but there are ways you can get started," said Salazar. "For example, let's say that you're a health management major and don't have any connections or jobs lined up after college, start volunteering at a hospital or health center. That way you have your foot in the door and can get to know the industry that you're going into. It'll also open up doors for internship and employment opportunities, and you'll be a top contender because you've given the time and effort."

She also advises students to take advantage of the opportunities available in college to get their foot in the door and have more possibilities after graduating.

Photo provided by Illouisa Salazar

Video editing has always been a passion of Salazar, and she enhanced her video editing skills when she worked for The Lions' Pride as the Mutlimedia Manager.

"If your major has a field placement program or coordinator, that also helps too. The only major I know that has that program is the criminal justice department. It is beneficial, and you have a high chance of graduating with a job. I highly recommend it to any criminal justice major," said Salazar.

She emphasized students should take advantage of opportunities because one of her regrets was that she did not know when to ask family members or friends for help. Nevertheless, she got help from a professor and credits this professor with giving the opportunity in the placement program for helping her have the job she has now.

"I owe a lot to my mentor, Dr. Joseph Cillo and his field placement program. Without his help, I'd have no direction in my life and where I'd want to be in the future."

Her current position at the Paso County Sherriff Office will help her with future career goals.

"I'd really love to do something with film in the future. One of the requirements of my new position is to go out and gather footage of a certain event or department and create a short little video," said Salazar.

Salazar is the former multimedia manager of The Lions' Pride. She mentioned that working for the newspaper has helped her to do what she is doing and develop skills and good work ethic.

"Working at The Lions' Pride also gave me the experience I needed to be a productive and efficient member in the workplace and I will be forever grateful for the opportunities they provided for me. I owe them a lot," said Salazar.

Also, the other thing she did in college that positively impacting her career was her major.

"My major at Saint Leo was Multimedia Management, and a lot of what I learned in my core classes are still elements that I will be using in my position, especially the Social Media Management class," said Salazar.

Along with majoring in Multimedia Management and working at The Lions' Pride, Salazar was able to become involved by being the president of Leo Vision, a multimedia club on campus. However, she still regrets not taking on more challenges.

"I wish I didn't shy away from the new challenges I faced towards the end of my time at Saint Leo. It's important to face those head on to grow as a person."

This connects to her advice for students, especially freshman. She advises that students don't be shy with asking for help but also don't be shy or afraid to get involved and pursue goals.

"Stay hungry and don't be afraid to go after what you want. As an incoming freshman, be aware that it's nice to have dreams, but you have to make sure you put in the work and time. Don't shy away from being a leader on campus or even in a group project."

Nevertheless, she is determined to reach her goals and even though she has some regrets she enjoys the position that she is in now.

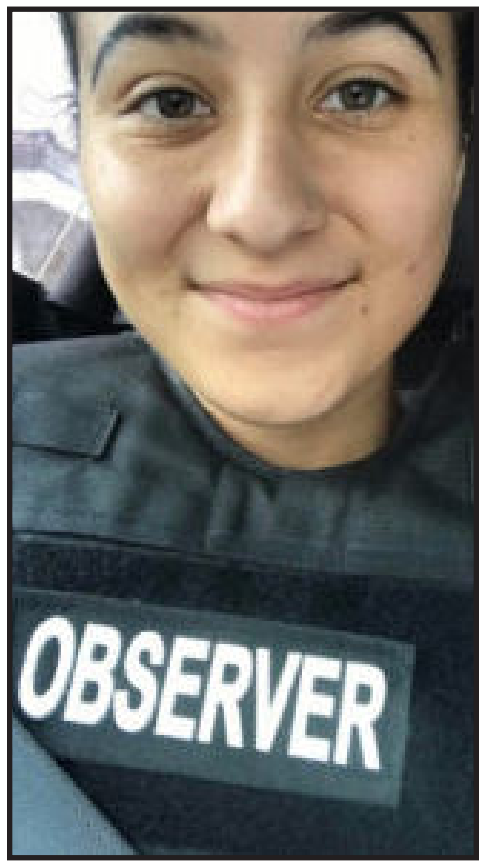


Photo provided by Illouisa Salazar

Salazar participated in "#TweetAlong," in which a social media coordinator rides with a deputy for a few hours to ask questions, as a way to humanize the deputies.